NOTE IV.

SYNONYMICAL NOTES CONCERNING THE NEUROPTEROUS GENUS HELICOMITUS, MAC LACHL.

BY

Dr. H. W. VAN DER WEELE.

This genus was erected by Mac Lachlan [Journ. Linn. Soc. XI, p. 261 (1871)] for a group of Indian species described by Walker [Cat. Brit. Mus. Neur. (1853)]. Mac Lachlan gives but a preliminary review of the synonymy of the species which were all described by Walker in such an unintelligible manner, that it is impossible to judge after his descriptions about their synonymy. Some weeks ago Mr. W. F. Kirby communicated me the Ascalaphidae of the British Museum and among them were three cotypes of Walker, which he kindly had compared. They agree very well with Walker's descriptions and belong to the species *insimulans*, *immotus* and *dicax*. As the individuals vary very much in colour after the degree of maturity and as the species have a very large geographical distribution, it is clear why Walker has described under so many names so few species. I refer to them after Mac Lachlan's synonymy: so is *insimulans* the male of *dicax*, which latter name has the priority. *Immotus* is a distinct species which is synonymical with *Ascalaphus cervinus* Hagen, from Ceylon. The latter name has, after a cotype of Brauer's collection in the Vienna Museum, the priority. The same species is figured by Westwood (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1888). It has a large distribution being found in the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Celebes etc. I saw in the Vienna Museum a very large specimen from Manilla, which I think to belong to the same species. Gerstaecker (Mitth. Vorpomm. und Rügen, XXV) described females from Java and Sumatra under the name *Suphalasca placida*. I cannot give any information about *H. verbosus* and *profanus* Walker, quoted by Mac Lachlan as distinct species, but after the descriptions I presume that they are large specimens of *cervinus* Hagen; I have, however, no original specimens for comparison. *H. ctenocerus* Gerst. is *Acheron trux* Walk., as I could state after comparing the types. *H. philippinensis* v. d. Weele is an aberrant species spread over the Indian Archipelago; it is known from Java, Celebes and Luzon.

Leyden, November 1905.